

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 to 11 (Canceled).

12. (New) An imaging sensor disposed in a vehicle, comprising:  
an image acquisition unit for generating at least one image signal; and  
an evaluation unit configured to monitor the imaging sensor's operability based on the image signal.

13. (New) The imaging sensor according to claim 12, wherein the evaluation unit derives from the image signal at least one value and compares the at least one value with at least one limit value to monitor the imaging sensor's operability.

14. (New) The imaging sensor according to claim 13, further comprising:  
an interface, wherein an indication of the operability is transferred via the interface.

15. (New) The imaging sensor according to claim 13, wherein the image signal is generated based on at least one invariant pattern.

16. (New) The imaging sensor according to claim 13, wherein the operability is determined based on a profile of the image signal.

17. (New) The imaging sensor according to claim 12, wherein the image acquisition unit includes a first image-producing sensor and a second image-producing sensor, and wherein the at least one image signal includes a first image signal provided by the first image-producing sensor and a second image signal provided by the second image-producing sensor, and wherein the operability is determined based on a comparison of the first image signal with the second image signal.

18. (New) The imaging sensor according to claim 13, wherein the operability is monitored during an initialization phase.

19. (New) The imaging sensor according to claim 13, wherein the imaging sensor is connectable to a diagnostic unit that activates the evaluation unit to monitor the operability.

20. (New) The imaging sensor according to claim 13, wherein the evaluation unit is manually activatable to monitor the operability.

21. (New) The imaging sensor according to claim 13, wherein the imaging sensor is configured to produce an image having depth resolution.

22. (New) The imaging sensor according to claim 12, further comprising:  
an illumination device configured to provide a pattern, wherein the image acquisition unit generates the image signal based on the pattern.